In the Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating an audio alert and processing an audio command, comprising:

detecting an alert condition identifying a problem with a system component, the alert condition being detected in response to an event notification associated with at least one of a plurality of heterogeneous ~~subsystems~~ application subsystems, each application subsystem in the plurality of heterogeneous application subsystems performing an associated one or more information technology management operations that are distinct from the one or more information technology management operations performed by ~~the~~ other application subsystems in the plurality of heterogeneous application subsystems;

filtering the alert condition to determine a notification path associated with the alert condition, the notification path being determined based at least on a property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being stored in an object repository;

constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition;

outputting the audio notification message via the notification path;

receiving an audio command;

processing the audio command to derive command data;

constructing a command based on the command data; and

storing the command in the object repository.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing an audio notification message includes identifying a portion of the message that is likely to be difficult for a user to understand and replacing the identified portion with a more easily understood synonym.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein detecting an alert condition includes detecting an alert condition within a plurality of subsystems of a network management application.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining at least one audio characteristic associated with the audio notification message.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a volume.

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the audio characteristic is a balance.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the audio notification message is presented in accordance with a filter.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition;

the determining the multi-tiered notification path includes determining the multi-tiered notification path, the determining the multi-tiered notification path including analyzing a parameter associated with the alert condition and selecting at least one tier of the notification path based on the parameter; and

the audio notification message is output via the at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein determining the multi-tiered notification path includes analyzing an escalation list.

11.   (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein constructing the audio notification message includes:

determining a user associated with the audio notification message;

determining a language preference associated with the user; and

constructing the audio message based on the language preference.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended)   A system for generating an audio alert and processing an audio command; the system comprising:

one or more memory units; and

one or more processing units operable to:

detect an alert condition identifying a problem with a system component, the alert condition being detected in response to an event notification associated with at least one of a plurality of heterogeneous ~~subsystems~~ application subsystems, each application subsystem in the plurality of heterogeneous application subsystems performing an associated one or more information technology management operations that are distinct from the one or more information technology management operations performed by ~~the~~ other application subsystems in the plurality of heterogeneous application subsystems;

filter the alert condition to determine a notification path associated with the alert condition, the notification path being determined based at least on a property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being stored in an object repository;

construct an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition;

output the audio notification message via the notification path;

receive an audio command;

process the audio command to derive command data;

construct a command based on the command data; and

store the command in the object repository.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for generating an audio alert and processing an audio command, including:

computer readable instructions for detecting an alert condition identifying a problem with a system component, the alert condition being detected in response to an event notification associated with at least one of a plurality of heterogeneous ~~subsystems~~ application subsystems, each application subsystem in the plurality of heterogeneous application subsystems performing an associated one or more information technology management operations that are distinct from the one or more information technology management operations performed by ~~the~~ other application subsystems in the plurality of heterogeneous application subsystems;

computer readable instructions for filtering the alert condition to determine a notification path associated with the alert condition, the notification path determined based at least on a property of an object associated with the alert condition, the object being stored in an object repository;

computer readable instructions for constructing an audio notification message based on at least one parameter associated with the alert condition;

computer readable instructions for outputting the audio notification message via the notification path;

computer readable instructions for receiving an audio command;

computer readable instructions for processing the audio command to derive command data;

computer readable instructions for constructing a command based on the command data; and

computer readable instructions for storing the command in the object repository.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition; and

the method further comprises identifying the occurrence of a prior alert condition that was not responded to, the multi-tier notification path being determined based at least in part on the occurrence of the prior alert condition.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition; and

the method further comprises assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon the severity of the alert condition.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition; and

the method further comprises assigning the level of responsibility to each of the one or more users based upon a type of object associated with the alert condition.

20.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the audio notification message is not responded to within a designated time limit.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The method of Claim 1, further comprising constructing an additional audio notification message if the alert condition is not addressed within a designated time limit.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the notification path comprises a multi-tiered notification path, each tier of the multi-tiered notification path identifying one or more users assigned a level of responsibility with respect to the alert condition;

the audio notification message is output via the at least one tier of the multi-tiered notification path; and

the method further comprises filtering the audio notification message such that at least one user on the multi-tiered notification path does not receive the audio notification message.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein filtering the audio notification message comprises filtering the audio notification message based on a property associated with an object associated with the alert condition.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the property is selected from the group consisting of a type of the object, a name of the object, a location of the object, the severity of the alert condition, the time of day, a level of risk, and an importance assigned to the object.